

**May 25, 2010**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) -- Today, U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) testified at a U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) hearing to highlight how steel grating producers in Wexford, PA and nationwide are being impacted by a flood of Chinese imports. In 2009, Fisher & Ludlow, a steel grating producer that has twenty employees in Wexford, PA, filed a petition with the ITC claiming that it was being materially injured by Chinese steel grating imports.

At the ITC's hearing today, Congressman Altmire supported Fisher and Ludlow's petition by detailing how steel grating workers in Wexford were being hurt by China's unfair trading practices. If the ITC rules in favor of Fisher & Ludlow's petition, countervailing and anti-dumping duties may be placed on Chinese steel grating imports.

**"China's decision to flood America's markets with steel grating imports is hurting American workers," Congressman Altmire said. "I am urging the ITC to recognize the damage being done by China's unfair trading practices and issue a ruling that will pave the way for duties on these imports. Steel grating manufacturers in western Pennsylvania and across the country deserve to have the opportunity to compete in a fair market."**

From 2006 to 2008, Chinese steel grating imports increased by 538 percent, and Chinese producers' share of America's steel grating market jumped from 5.1 percent to 24.3 percent. As a result of this, American producers' market share was substantially eroded, even though overall steel grating consumption increased by one-third over the same period. In response, Fisher and Ludlow has been forced to lay off 30 percent of its workforce and is now operating at a fraction of its capacity.

Steel grating is often used to construct walkways, catwalks, fire escapes and a variety of other structures in utility plants, offshore oil platforms, and manufacturing facilities.

